

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 16-22 remain in the application and claims 1, 7, 13, 16, and 18 have been amended hereby. Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12-14, and 17-22 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Boling et al. in view of Oyama and Tsukagoshi, and of the rejection of claims 10 and 11 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Boling et al. in view of Oyama, Tsukagoshi, and Rune.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's finding of Allowable Subject Matter in claims 15 and 16 and reasons for allowance as stated in the Office action at paragraphs 5 and 6.

Therefore, all the limitations of claim 15 and intervening claim 14 have been incorporated hereby in independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 18.

Further, claim 16 has been amended to be placed in independent form and to include all the limitations of claims 13 and 14. Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled.

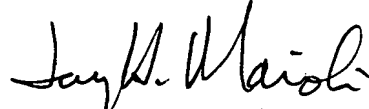
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 7, 13, 16, 18, and the claims depending therefrom, that is all pending claims, are in condition for allowance.

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An early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" clearly distinguishable.

Jay H. Maioli  
Reg. No. 27,213

JHM/PCF:tb